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10 February 1949

TO Ambassador Robert Murphy

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Dear Bob:

In the attached memorandum, I have outlined briefly the mission of the small group which this office is setting up in Germany.

It has come to my attention that General Hall has some question as to the merit of this activity, and is reluctant to defend it to General Clay in seeking authorization for the Theater staff support which it must have in order to function at all. General Clay is aware of the over-all responsibilities with which this office has been charged, and has expressed himself to me as being in sympathy with and willing to support our functions and objectives in so far as they relate to Germany.

It would be very helpful if you could explain to him that our present activity in Germany is only a small start in what I most sincerely hope will be, and intend to be, successful conduct of our over-all activities.

Our field capabilities at this stage are limited by several factors, the most important being the slow process of recruiting and indoctrinating competent, secure personnel, and our national inexperience in peacetime activities of this sort. This is a very tricky and difficult business and I have not wanted to rush at it precipitously.

I have taken the position that the German field office must move with extreme caution in its formative period, that it must lay a solid foundation for its activities, both policy-wise and operationally, and that it must demonstrate its ability to do small jobs well before undertaking more ambitious ones.

I feel sure that if General Clay realizes the nature of my approach to this problem, as it applies to Germany, he will be happy to give this project his support. I trust also that if he feels my instructions, or his own wishes, are not being carried out by my representatives in Germany, he will feel free to tell me so most frankly.

If you feel that you could deal with this matter directly with General Hall and without troubling General Clay about it, this would be satisfactory to me. For your guidance and possible use in taking up this matter with General Clay or General Hall I have had a memorandum prepared - addressed to General Clay - but which need not be delivered to him.

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F. G. W.

RJH

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